

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the subject application is requested. It is believed that the amended application is in condition for allowance because of the following reasons.

Claims 1, 5-9 and 11-21 have been allowed. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's 35 USC 112, second paragraph objections. Since claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1 and claim 10 depends from claim 4, they are also allowable.

Independent claim 22 is patentably distinguishable from the applied references by the positive limitation of a pair of hand held applicators connected to said reservoir for retracting eyelids. The Examiner's attention is directed to lines 17-21 of Applicant's specification, wherein it is stated:

"The applicator 26 which is shown in Fig. 1 is one of several types of applicators which are intended for use in the station 20. One type of applicator (not shown) is disclosed in a co-pending application Serial No. 10/321,684, filed on December 18, 2002 for an eye wash station, which is incorporated herein by reference. One feature of this applicator is that an eyelid is retracted and held in an open position by the applicator."

An excerpt from the application which is incorporated by reference is attached. The retracting feature is a unique feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the applied references. Although no further changes to claim 22 is believed to be necessary, Applicant has amended the claim to more particularly distinguish the claim from the references.

Since claims 23-27 depend from claim 22, for the same reason as claim 22, they are patentably distinguishable from the references. Claim 23 which is directed to a method is also patentably distinguishable from the applied references for the same reasons as claim 22. Claims 29-34 depend from claim 28 and are allowable for the same reasons as

claim 28.

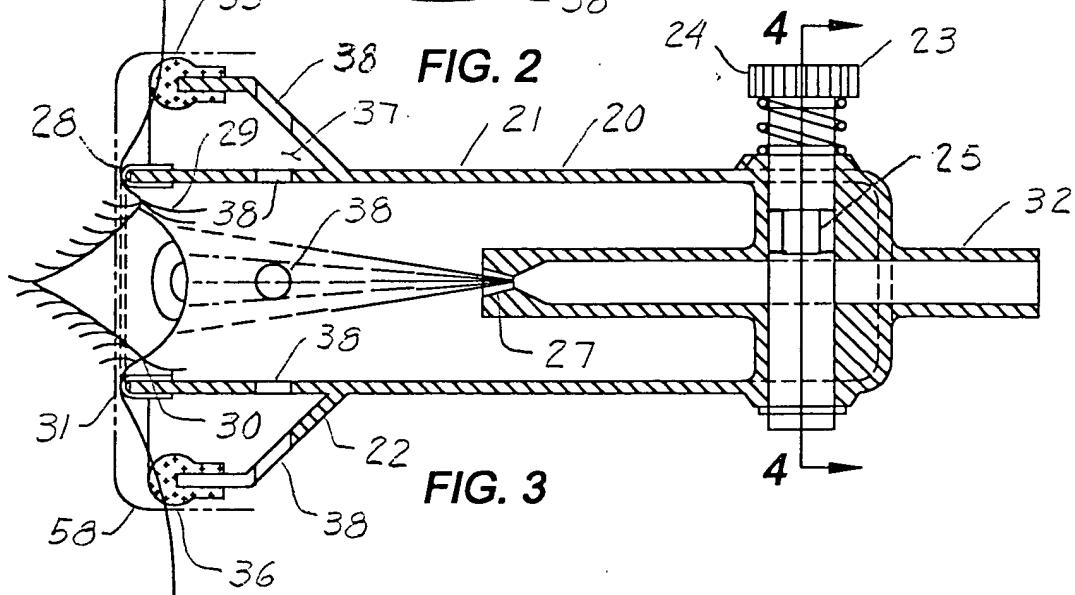
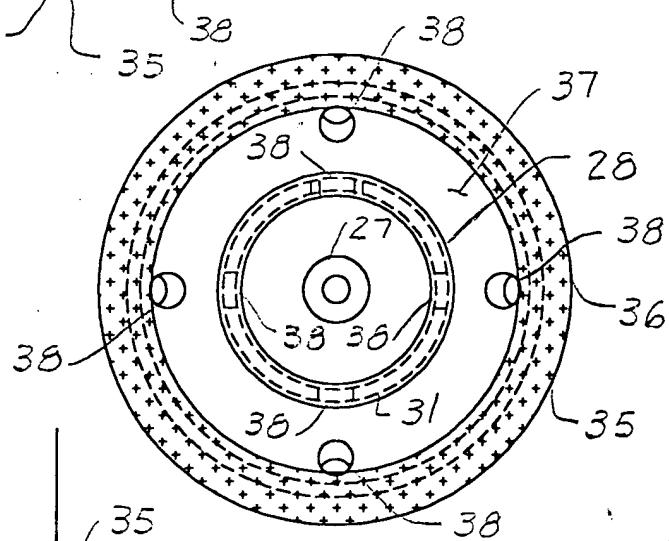
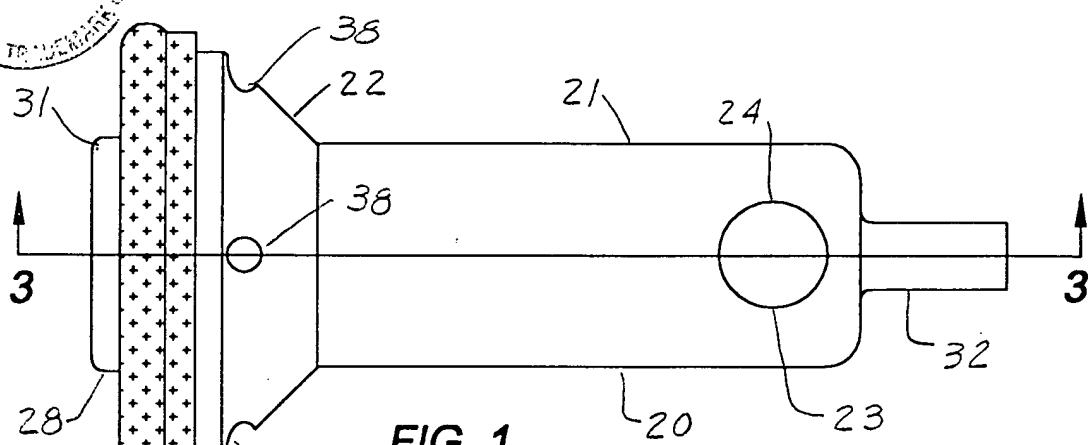
In view of the above, it is requested that the Examiner act on this application favorably and pass the application for allowance. Although no further changes are believed necessary, should the Examiner deem otherwise, a telephone conference would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



Alex Rhodes
Alex Rhodes, Reg. No. 26,797
Attorney for Applicant
50168 Pontiac Trail, Unit No. 9
Wixom, MI 48393-2019
Telephone: (248) 669-0678
Fax: (248) 669-3694

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1 through 3 is particularly adapted for use in an eyewash station 33 and is not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

The retractor 20 is comprised of a body portion 21, a normally closed valve 23 and a disposable cover 58. The valve 23 is best understood by reference to Figs. 3 and 4.

5 When a spring biased cylindrical valve body 24 is depressed, a reduced portion 25 of the valve body 24 is aligned with a bore 26 of the valve body 24 to allow water to pass through a nozzle 27 and spray on to an eye of a user. When the valve body 24 is released, the reduced portion 25 is displaced away from the bore 26 and the discharge of water through the nozzle 27 is shut off. The disposable cover 58 is shown in phantom in Fig. 3. The 10 disposable cover 58 protects the retractor 20 against contamination prior to a use of the retractor 20. A tubular rear end portion 32 of the nozzle 27 connects the retractor 20 in an eye washing station 33 which will be later described.

With reference to Fig. 3, one edge portion of the body 21, designated herein as a peri-ocular portion 28 is a circular portion. The peri-ocular portion 28 retracts the upper 15 29 and lower 30 eyelids of a user by exerting a pressure inside of the eye socket on the upper 29 and lower 30 eyelids. The peri-ocular portion 28 is preferably covered with a thin plastic sleeve 31 to promote friction against the eyelids 29, 30 when the peri-ocular portion 28 is lightly pressed against the eyelids 29, 30.

A forward extending wall portion 22, extends outwardly to a circular edge 35 which 20 is spaced rearward of the peri-ocular portion 28. The edge 35, herein designated as a peri-orbital portion 35, is covered with a soft resilient cellular pad 36 which is an important feature of the invention. The purpose of the pad 36 is to accommodate anatomical